What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing security during operation of a self-service checkout terminal, comprising the steps of:

   creating a transaction table which includes a plurality of records

5   corresponding respectively to a plurality of items entered into the checkout terminal during a checkout procedure;

   analyzing the plurality of records;

   generating a characteristic value in response to the analyzing step; and

10   comparing the characteristic value to a characteristic trigger point and generating a characteristic control signal in response thereto.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

   updating an electronic log value based on the characteristic control

15   signal.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

   comparing the log value to a log threshold and generating a personnel signal in response thereto.

2/ 4. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the analyzing step includes the step of calculating the number of identical records of a respective item contained in the plurality of records,

the generating step includes the step of generating an identical

5   item value in response to the calculating step, and

the comparing step includes the step of comparing the identical item value to an identical item trigger point and generating an identical item control signal in response thereto.

10   3 5. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the analyzing step includes the step of calculating the average dollar amount of the items contained in the plurality of records,

the generating step includes the step of generating an average item value in response to the calculating step, and

15   the comparing step includes the step of comparing the average item value to an average item value trigger point and generating an average item control signal in response thereto.

46. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the analyzing step includes the step of calculating the number of records contained in the plurality of records corresponding to items from a common store department,

5   the generating step includes the step of generating a common department value in response to the calculating step, and

the comparing step includes the step of comparing the common department value to a common department trigger point and generating a common department control signal in response thereto.

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57. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the analyzing step includes the step of calculating the number of records contained in the plurality of records corresponding to items which were manually entered,

15   the generating step includes the step of generating a manually entered value in response to the calculating step, and

the comparing step includes the step of comparing the manually entered value to a manually entered trigger point and generating a manually entered control signal in response thereto.

6 8. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the analyzing step includes the step of calculating the number of records contained in the plurality of records corresponding to items which were voided,

5   the generating step includes the step of generating a item voided value in response to the calculating step, and

the comparing step includes the step of comparing the item voided value to an item voided trigger point and generating an item voided control signal in response thereto.

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7 9. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of records includes (1) a grocery record corresponding to a grocery item, and (2) a coupon record corresponding to a coupon associated with the grocery item,

15   the analyzing step includes the step of calculating the ratio between the dollar amount of the grocery record and the dollar amount of the coupon record,

the generating step includes the step of generating a ratio value in response to the calculating step, and

20   the comparing step includes the step of comparing the ratio value to a ratio trigger point and generating a ratio control signal in response thereto.

8 10. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of records includes a plurality of coupon records corresponding respectively to a plurality of coupons entered into the checkout terminal during the checkout procedure,

5   the analyzing step includes the step of calculating the number of identical coupon records of a respective coupon contained in the plurality of records,

the generating step includes the step of generating an identical coupon value in response to the calculating step, and

10   the comparing step includes the step of comparing the identical coupon value to an identical coupon trigger point and generating an identical coupon control signal in response thereto.

9 11. The method of claim 1, wherein:

15   the plurality of records includes a plurality of coupon records corresponding respectively to a plurality of coupons entered into the checkout terminal during the checkout procedure,

the analyzing step includes the step of calculating the number of coupon records contained in the plurality of records,

20   the generating step includes the step of generating a number-of-coupons value in response to the calculating step, and

the comparing step includes the step of comparing the number-of-coupons value to a number-of-coupons trigger point and generating a number-of-coupons control signal in response thereto.

10 12. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of records includes a plurality of coupon records corresponding respectively to a plurality of coupons entered into the checkout terminal during the checkout procedure,

5   the analyzing step includes the step of calculating the total dollar amount of all of the coupon records contained in the plurality of records,

the generating step includes the step of generating a coupon total value in response to the calculating step, and

the comparing step includes the step of comparing the coupon total

10   value to a coupon total trigger point and generating a coupon total control signal in response thereto.

11 13. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of records includes (1) a plurality of grocery records

15   corresponding respectively to a plurality of grocery items, and (2) a plurality of coupon records corresponding respectively to a plurality of coupons,

the analyzing step includes the step of calculating the ratio between the dollar amount of the sum of the grocery records and the

20   dollar amount of the sum of the coupon records,

the generating step includes the step of generating a sum ratio value in response to the calculating step, and

the comparing step includes the step of comparing the sum ratio value to a sum ratio trigger point and generating a sum ratio control signal

25   in response thereto.

12. 14. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of records includes a first record and a second record,

the analyzing step includes the step of calculating a time lapse

between entry of the first record and entry of the second record,

5   the generating step includes the step of generating an item time

lapse value in response to the calculating step, and

the comparing step includes the step of comparing the item time

lapse value to an item time lapse trigger point and generating an item time

lapse control signal in response thereto.

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13. 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the creating step includes a

step selected from the group consisting of: (1) scanning an identification

code associated with the item with a scanner device, (2) obtaining a

weight associated with the item with a scale and thereafter entering the

15   identification code associated with the item with a data input device, and

(3) entering the identification code associated with the item with the data

input device.

16. A method of providing security during operation of a self-service checkout terminal, comprising the steps of:

creating a transaction table which includes a plurality of records corresponding respectively to a plurality of items entered into the checkout

5 terminal during a checkout procedure;

analyzing the plurality of records to determine the number of identical records of a respective item contained in the plurality of records;

generating an identical item value in response to the analyzing step; and

10 comparing the identical item value to an identical item trigger point and generating an identical item control signal in response thereto.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

updating an electronic log value based on the identical item control

15 signal; and

comparing the log value to a log threshold and generating a personnel signal in response thereto.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

20 analyzing the plurality of records to determine the average dollar amount of the items contained in the plurality of records;

generating an average item value in response to the analyzing step; and

comparing the average item value to an average item trigger point

25 and generating an average item control signal in response thereto.

15 19. A method of providing security during operation of a self-service checkout terminal, comprising the steps of:

creating a transaction table which includes a plurality of records corresponding respectively to a plurality of items entered into the checkout

5 terminal during a checkout procedure;

analyzing the plurality of records to determine the average dollar amount of the items contained in the plurality of records;

generating an average item value in response to the analyzing step; and

10 comparing the average item value to an average item trigger point and generating an average item control signal in response thereto.

16 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

updating an electronic log value based on the average item control

15 signal; and

comparing the log value to a log threshold and generating a personnel signal in response thereto.